

Date

5/26/11

Dear FCC Commissioners:

In reference to the proposed T-Mobile/AT&T merger, (Docket No. 11-65), the members of UFCW local 328 in Rhode Island enthusiastically support it. We understand it is the FCC's duty to determine whether this transaction is in the public interest, and we are confident that once you examine the benefits for working families and the broader economy, you will approve it.

The merger will accelerate AT&T's transition to the next generation of broadband technology (4G LTE) that will deliver high-speed data and video. AT&T predicts that because of the compatibility of the technology utilized by the two companies, 4G LTE will reach upwards of 97 percent of the country within six years. AT&T has said it will commit an additional \$8 billion to build out this technology, leading to new jobs in this time of elevated unemployment.

T-Mobile's employees also stand to benefit from this merger because they would move to AT&T, which is the only unionized employer in the wireless industry. Larry Cohen, President of the Communications Workers of America, says that AT&T has a "management record of full neutrality toward union membership and a bargaining voice." This is good news for working families at a time when so many are attacking the ability of workers to have a voice in the workplace.

Beyond T-Mobile's workers, the merger will also help communities that traditionally have not had access to the most current broadband technology. AT&T's expansion will allow underserved areas in urban and rural locations increased access to this next generation technology, allowing them to utilize tools like distance learning and tele-medicine. That is in addition to the positive economic impact associated with broadband access.

For all these reasons, we hope you will allow this merger to proceed with all appropriate speed. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Riley

Secretary/Treasurer
Local 328

UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers International)

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